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Dated: January 3, 2006

Signature:


(Kathryn L. Nash)Docket No.: 65937-0037
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:
Joseph L. Mark et al.

Application No.: 10/649,068

Confirmation No.: 4645

Filed: August 27, 2003

Art Unit: 3737

For: INTRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL
INSTRUMENTS

Examiner: R. S. Smith

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Applicant has not submitted copies of each cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application as required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i), amended October 2004, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has waived this requirement for all U.S. patent applications. Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign and non-patents in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material

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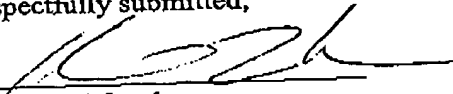
information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65937-0037. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: January 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/649,068-Conf. #4645
		Filing Date	August 27, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Joseph L. Mark
		Art Unit	3737
		Examiner Name	R. S. Smith
		Attorney Docket Number	65937-0037
Sheet	1	of	1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-2003/0109801 A1	06-12-2003	Rhad et al.	
	AB	US-2003/0109803 A1	06-12-2003	Huitema et al.	
	AC*	US-6,626,849	09-30-2003	09/30/2003	
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	AI	US-2005/0212175 A1	09-29-2005	Tsonton et al.	
	AJ	US-2005/0215922 A1	09-29-2005	Tsonton et al.	
	AK	US-2005/0261581 A1	11-24-2005	Hughes et al.	
	AL	US-2005/0277829 A1	12-15-2005	Tsonton et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.†	Foreign Patent Document Country Code*·Number*·Kind Code* (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	†

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.¹	include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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